



# Saguaro National Park (East) Naturalist Program Schedule November, 2015

Programs meet at the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail unless otherwise noted. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5153 for updates. See [www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu) for other programs.

**November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** 9:45 a.m. **Cactus Garden Walk** *Easy Stroll*  
**2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 30** 3:15 p.m.

Join us in the Cactus Garden to discover the fascinating world of desert plants and the many techniques they use to live here. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**November 8, 15, 29** 11:00 a.m. **The GIANT Cactus** *¾ mile guided walk*

Saguaro National Park is famous for its gigantic saguaros. Still, you have to know where to look to find a real giant among giants. The best way is to join a ranger for a walk along a desert wash for a lesson in trees of the desert and a look at the only tree-like cactus in the U.S. You'll be surprised by the size! Sturdy shoes and water are recommended

**November 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 13** 10:00 a.m. **Sonoran Lifestyles** *Guided Walk*  
**16, 17, 20, 23, 24, 27, 30**

Join a park naturalist on this 2-hour, 1-mile walk to discover how plants and animals adapt to life in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

**November 3, 17, 24** 11:00 a.m. **A Taste of the Desert** *garden walk*

Join us for a stroll through our cactus garden and learn what plants can be used for food, clothing, medicine, shelter and much more. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**November 4 & 25** 11:00 a.m. **Flash, Whoosh, Gush, and Growth: Sonoran Desert Monsoon Rain\***  
**14** 1:00 p.m. *Presentation*

The summer heat and humidity bring the mighty and sometimes destructive monsoon rain. Saguaro, toads, and others *depend* on these drenching afternoons to begin a new season of life in the dry desert. A fabulous video opens this theater presentation. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**November 5** 2:00 p.m. **Drive-Thru Geology** *1 hour auto tour*

Hop in your car for a journey through 25 million years of earth history...in one hour! We'll observe the varied landforms of the desert – bajadas, washes, outcrops – and find out why geology students from around the world come to see the Rincon Mountain foothills. (Hint: it's the mylonitic gneiss!)

**November 6, 13, 20, 27** 2:00 p.m. **The Saguaro Nursery** *½ mile guided walk*

The reports of the saguaro's demise were greatly exaggerated! Take a stroll along a trail to see the next generation of young saguaros and the gradual renewal of the Cactus Forest.

**November 6 & 20** 3:00 p.m. **Creating Saguaro National Park** *presentation*

Join staff in the visitor center auditorium to discover how abuse, failure, politics, commitment, recovery and the Tucson Garden Club all played a part in creating today's Saguaro National Park. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**November 7 & 28**      10:00 a.m.      **Sharing the Desert's Stories**      *Activity*

Children 5 to 10 years of age and parents are invited to come join us in the visitor center auditorium as we bring some of the Sonoran Desert's stories to life. This month's theme will be Desert Creatures. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling (520) 733-5153. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**November 7 & 28**      1:00 p.m.      **The Point of the Matter is Cactus**      *Presentation*  
**18**      11:00 a.m.

Cactus are much more than strange plants with spines. They are uniquely equipped to thrive in the desert environment, and every year bloom with spectacular flowers. This theater presentation will highlight these survival marvels with a beautiful photo gallery. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**November 7, 14, 28**      2:30 p.m.      **Living in a Cactus Forest**

Our "Cactus Forest" was protected as a National Monument in 1933. But that doesn't mean it hasn't changed. Take an easy stroll through this desert preserve to learn about the past AND discuss the future of your National Park and the growing Tucson community.

**November 11**      11:00 a.m.      **A Sticky Situation at Saguaro**      *Presentation*  
**21**      1:00 p.m.

Here at Saguaro National Park East we have 20 species of cactus and each is beautiful in its own way. Finding them all can be a challenge, but we will see each one in a stunning photo gallery and learn a few uses these plants have to those living here and beyond. Theater presentation. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**November 12 & 19**      10:00 a.m.      **Lime Kilns Tour**      *2 mile hike*

Come explore two of the park's historic lime kilns on this easy 2-mile hike. Park staff will share the history of the lime kiln industry and its effects on Saguaro National Park. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

**November 12**      7:00 p.m.      **Star Party**      *illustrated program & activity*

Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. Reservations required. Call 733-5153. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**November 13 & 27**      3:00 p.m.      **History is a Work in Progress**      *presentation*

Join us in the visitor center auditorium to explore the almost forgotten names of people and places from the late 1800's in the area of the Rincon Mountains. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**November 13 & 27**      7:00 p.m.      **Night Walk**      *1 mile guided walk*

Join a park naturalist for this easy two-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

**November 14, 28**      5:30 p.m.      **Sunset Stroll**      *½ mile guided walk*

Sonoran Desert sunsets are famous for their blazing colors. Join a park ranger to discover how nature will paint the sky tonight.

**November 15, 29**      2:30 p.m.      **Visitor's/Naturalist's Choice**      *1.5 mile Guided Walk*

Here's your chance to take a walk with a ranger with twenty years' experience in the Sonoran Desert. Bring your favorite question or topic, or just enjoy the best stories of the day: wildlife, wildflowers, or wilderness, as the weather and the seasons change. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

**November 18 & 25**      2:00 p.m.      **Cactus Caravan**      *Auto Tour*

Begin your exploration of the Cactus Forest Drive with a park ranger and become familiar with some of the common cacti. A great introduction to the park! *Wheelchair accessible.*

**November 28**      9:00 a.m.      **Young Adult Hiking Club**      *5-mile hike*

Young adults 18 years and older are invited to come hike off that turkey dinner with a park ranger. The emphasis will be fitness and fun. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early by calling the visitor center at (520) 733-5153. Wear comfortable walking/hiking shoes; bring water and a light trail snack.